

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Summertime presents a dilemma for most working families trying to balance the demands of adult work schedules with providing safe activities for children. This dilemma often results in hectic, stress filled days comparable to those during the school year. While summer camp is an option for some, the cost of day and overnight camps can be too expensive for many families. Structured activities are beneficial, but parents and caregivers should also keep in mind the advantages of unstructured time for children.

"Summer slide," "Summer setback," or "Summer reading gap," are terms you may have heard in reference to what happens to students when they are out of school during the summer months. Research tells us that children who do not practice their skills lose an average of one month of instruction when they return to school in September. Teachers spend the first month of the new school year reviewing and "reteaching" instead of new teaching. The achievement gap persists and to help close it, children need opportunities to practice during the summer.

Your children have worked hard during this school year to improve their reading and math abilities and overall school performance and we applaud them for their efforts and achievement. However, like any other skill, the more one practices the better one gets.

Participate with your child in the many activities going on in the Cambridge Public Library Summer Reading Program. Summer 2018 Theme is "Stories Rock at your Library." Also remember to take advantage of the free and discounted passes to museums and zoos that are available with a Cambridge library card. You may reserve in advance. For more information check their website www.cambridgepubliclibrary.org or call 617-349-4041. Another resource is www.highlandstreet.org for a listing of museums that offer free admission on Fridays. For additional reading/math practice, select activities on the www.cpsd.us website under those curriculum areas.

Have a wonderful summer and remember to keep reading!

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Thank you to the school department staff who were on hand to run the activity tables at our *Kickoff to Summer Literacy Night* on May 24th! We would also like to thank the people from the community who came to help, as well as the parents and children, for taking time from their busy schedules to join us. Without this dedicated participation, our event would not have been possible!